

~~SECRET~~

23 JAN 1969

1098

Briefing Paper for the ADDP for the President

Draft

Chile: March 1969 Congressional Election

In Chile the CIA is engaged in a modest election program in support of moderate candidates of the three non-Marxist political parties in the upcoming March 1969 election. The election of these candidates would strengthen moderate influence in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies and improve the chances of preventing a Communist-supported candidate from becoming President of Chile in 1970.

This program originated in a request by Ambassador Edward M. Korry and was approved by the S03 Committee on 12 July 1968. The program itself is conducted under the direction of the Ambassador, and the selection of candidates to be supported is made in the field by a small election team which consists of key Embassy and CIA personnel. The election team makes extensive use of voting data from other recent elections in making its selection of candidates to be supported.

The election program consists of three aspects: a) Financial support [redacted] to about 15-20 carefully selected candidates for whom our support is considered important. [redacted]

[redacted]; b) Propaganda designed to create a psychological climate favorable to moderate candidates; and c) Financial support to a splinter Socialist party whose political survival presents a major obstacle to unity of the left.

U.S. involvement in Chilean internal politics is a sensitive matter, but the risks have been accepted in consideration of the U.S. political and economic stake in Chile. [redacted]

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

~~SECRET~~